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# COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/12 of 28 October 1991 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly:

> "1. Expresses its satisfaction at the signing of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, which is oriented towards the broadening of their cooperation in matters of common concern, particularly in areas relating to the economic and social development of Latin America;
>
> "2. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;
>
> "3. Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out, including the adoption of a new regional project within the framework of its Fifth Programming Cycle, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System;
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> "5. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and cooperation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "6. Requests both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to assess, at the appropriate time, the implementation of the recently signed Agreement between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its forty-seventh session;
>
> "7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. For the preparation of the present report, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) wrote to the following organizations of the United Nations system requesting an update of their activities with SELA, to be included in the Secretary-General's report: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Council (WFC) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Eight of these replied by sending a summary of their activities in cooperation with SELA. Six noted that they did not currently carry out any activities with SELA; a number of them, however, expressed a desire to do so in the future. The following summary was based on all of this information.

## II. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

4. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/419), since the establishment in October 1975 of SELA, considerable cooperation has taken place between the United Nations and SELA, in particular with ECLAC, but also with other organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

5. As the above-mentioned report shows, this cooperation has increased over the years and has become more diversified in terms of both the areas and the organizations concerned.

6. In the context of efforts to intensify cooperation between the United Nations and SELA, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/5 of 16 October 1990, a meeting on cooperation between the two organizations was held on 27 September 1991, at which the Organization of American States (OAS) was also represented. At that meeting, the cooperation under way was evaluated and new possibilities for joint action were explored, some of which are reflected in the present report.

7. Also on 27 September 1991, and also pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/5, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of SELA signed an Agreement of Cooperation designed to formalize the activities of cooperation between the two organizations.

8. Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement of Cooperation, General Assembly resolution 46/12 and resolution 522 (XXIV) of ECLAC, the latter has continued to cooperate closely with SELA. The following paragraphs summarize those activities during the period covered by the present report.

9. Cooperation between ECLAC and SELA has included the participation of ECLAC representatives in various meetings convened by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and vice versa. Notable in that regard was the participation of the Permanent Secretary of SELA in the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC, held at Santiago from 8 to 15 April 1992. ECLAC has continued to prepare specialized documents to support SELA activities. Listed below are only a few examples of this cooperation.

10. In the area of transport, in early 1992 ECLAC prepared detailed comments on a SELA report concerning air transport in Latin America.

11. In the area of industry and technology, ECLAC participated in the preparatory meetings for the Regional Conference on Industrialization convened by SELA, and contributed to the elaboration of the proposals and recommendations submitted at that Conference, held from 9 to 11 October 1991 at SELA headquarters.

12. With regard to social policies, ECLAC has continued to act as focal point for the activities of various agencies concerning integrated social policies in the region, in which SELA has played an active role.

13. In that context, the Third Informal Inter-agency Meeting on Integrated Social Policies and Economic Adjustment in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by SELA, was held on 7 and 8 May at Caracas. On that occasion, a document on the social dimensions of changing production patterns with social equity, prepared by ECLAC, was presented to help define the essential problems and identify common approaches in order to orient the agencies' activities in the field of social policy.

14. During that meeting, important agreements were reached on joint activities, such as the final revision of the ECLAC document, the establishment of a social project bank, the conduct of inter-agency missions and projects on social policy, the creation of an information and communications network and support for current efforts regarding the convening of a world summit for social development, including the organization of a regional preparatory meeting for that event, which would be held in Latin America in 1994.

15. On the subject of forward planning, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) has maintained close cooperation with SELA. In this context, ILPES, in conjunction with France's International Institute for Public Administration, organized the International Colloquium on the World Economic Outlook and its Effects on the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Santiago from 15 to 18 April 1991. The Permanent Secretary of SELA attended the Colloquium and gave a presentation on the

content of a document on the Enterprise for the Americas initiative in the context of relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the United States.

16. In the field of information, consultations have been initiated in recent months to define the terms of collaboration of the ECLAC/Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) Regional Programme to Strengthen Cooperation among National Information Networks and Systems for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (INFOLAC) with the Project on the Status of Regional Cooperation and the Simón Bolívar Programme on Latin American technological innovation. Under the Network of Latin American Information Networks project, which will be launched during 1992, plans are envisaged for CLADES to provide information management training to network participants.

17. With respect to external economic relations, ECLAC has continued to contribute to the activities of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, particularly in regard to the relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with the United States, the European Economic Community (EEC) and Japan. In this context, an ECLAC staff member prepared a document on challenges and opportunities in trade relations between Japan and Latin America (LC/L.632), which was considered at a meeting organized by SELA at Caracas on 9 and 10 December 1991.

18. Moreover, ECLAC is preparing, in conjunction with SELA and UNCTAD, a regional technical cooperation project, aimed at the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the field of international trade and trade relations.

19. Furthermore, the ECLAC secretariat was represented at a meeting of agencies and experts on Latin American and Caribbean integration and cooperation, held at SELA headquarters on 25 and 26 June 1992.

20. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA participated in the second colloquium on global questions concerning the process of hemispheric trade liberalization, sponsored by ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and held at Washington, D.C., on 30 April and 1 May 1992. It also participated in the third colloquium on the same subject, held at Toronto, Canada, from 31 May to 2 June.

21. The SELA and ECLAC secretariats maintain ongoing consultations regarding these and other areas of economic cooperation and matters of mutual interest. Among these are technical support for the countries of the so-called Rio Group; promotion of a convergence among the various Latin American economic integration modalities; and the execution of a special programme of cooperation on external trade, under which consideration is being given to the convening of another meeting of foreign trade officials in the region.

22. In the area of environment and development, an ECLAC staff member participated in the meeting of experts invited to participate in a personal

capacity prior to the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, on 30 and 31 January 1992.

23. With respect to technical cooperation, ECLAC hosted a regional meeting on TCDC in health technologies, organized by SELA with the support of WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), UNDP and the Government of Chile in the context of Project Convergence, which sought to encourage negotiations for TCDC among the countries of the region in the transfer of health technologies. The meeting opened at ECLAC headquarters at Santiago on 6 July 1992. ECLAC was invited to join the monitoring committee for any TCDC activities originating and taking place in the context of this project.

24. ECLAC is cooperating in preparatory activities for a TCDC workshop in the area of trade, oriented towards the exchange of experiences and the promotion of joint actions concerning access to regional and extraregional markets. The workshop will be organized by SELA and ECLAC, with the support of UNDP through its Special Unit for TCDC, and will take place in March 1993.

25. Support was given to the Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by SELA, which took place immediately before the meeting of the Latin American Council in September 1991. Additionally, in September 1991, ECLAC participated in the annual Meeting of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities, which was held simultaneously with the Council meetings.

26. With regard to cooperation between UNDP and SELA, the organizations finished carrying out the activities defined in the objectives of regional project RLA/87/028, "Regional cooperation - SELA (phase IV)", concluded on 31 December 1991, in the areas of international trade negotiations, industrialization, integration, external debt and regional cooperation.

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of resolution 46/12, urged UNDP to "strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out, including the adoption of a new regional project within the framework of its Fifth Programming Cycle, aimed at complementing the technical assistance activities conducted by the Latin American Economic System".

28. Accordingly, a two-month preparatory assistance project (RLA/92/008) was submitted for consideration to the UNDP Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to the preparation and adoption of a new UNDP/SELA project to be included in the fifth programming cycle for an initial period of two years (1993-1994) for an amount of $550,000. This project will comprise activities in the areas of external economic relations, foreign trade and financing, industrialization, innovation, competitiveness and social equity, and regional cooperation and convergence.

29. A regional workshop on the application of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, sponsored by SELA and UNDP, was held at SELA headquarters from 12 to 15 May 1992. The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the working meeting of consultants for the UNDP/UNCTAD project on trade and environment, held in New York on 4 and 5 May.

30. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA receives technical and financial support from the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC in conducting the meetings of directors of international technical cooperation, in the context of SELA meetings. This support has contributed to the definition of a working strategy to strengthen national focal points for technical cooperation and the identification of priority activities and projects. In turn, the identification of priority areas has facilitated the promotion of programming exercises and TCDC negotiations in specific fields. The 26 States members of SELA participate in those meetings, and representatives of international and regional organizations also attend as observers. The meetings have been held at SELA headquarters since 1986, and have become institutionalized as forums for programming and negotiating TCDC activities in the region.

31. Pursuant to decisions 287, 304 and 319 of the Latin American Council of SELA, the directors of international technical cooperation of the States members of SELA defined the health sector as a priority and agreed to hold, in coordination with UNDP, PAHO/WHO and SELA, a programming and negotiating exercise on TCDC in the field of technological development in the health sector. To that end, four subregional meetings were held as forums for preliminary negotiation prior to the regional meeting, which took place at Santiago from 6 to 10 July 1992.

32. This TCDC exercise has been designated "Project Convergence" and is intended to stimulate the development of health technology in the region and to facilitate and implement enhanced cooperation among government bodies, research and development centres and producers of health technology, with the aim of promoting the development of effective technologies at a reasonable cost.

33. The third (Central American) subregional meeting took place at Antigua, Guatemala, from 9 to 12 March 1992, while the fourth (Caribbean) subregional meeting was held at Bridgetown from 27 to 30 April. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA was represented at both meetings.

34. WHO, with the support of UNDP, has collaborated with SELA in connection with the above-mentioned project on technical cooperation among developing countries in the health field (Project Convergence).

35. As a result of this cooperation, several TCDC project profiles have been developed at subregional and regional levels. The projects presented at the subregional meetings promote integration among government agencies, research and development centres, universities and private producers of health technology. At the July meeting, representatives from all participating countries will negotiate regional projects of mutual interest, which will be submitted to several international agencies for consideration and support.

36. Cooperation between UNESCO and SELA has continued under the cooperation agreement signed on 20 July 1988 between the two organizations. On 31 March 1992, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA participated in the official international launching of the Simón Bolívar Programme, a regional initiative supported by SELA, UNESCO and IDB, which seeks to achieve technological development, innovation and industrial competitiveness through new linkages among the scientific, academic, business and public sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean.

37. As indicated in the section on ECLAC, UNESCO sponsored, jointly with the Commission and SELA, the Third Informal Inter-agency Meeting on Integrated Social Policies and Economic Adjustment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at SELA headquarters on 7 and 8 May.

38. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed the report of the UNESCO/International Centre of Advanced Communication Studies for Latin America (CIESPAL) seminar on communication and integration, held at Cuenca, Ecuador, from 7 to 9 April 1992.

39. The Permanent Secretary of SELA contributed an article to the UNESCO magazine concerning future prospects for resources for cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

40. UNCTAD and SELA have intensified their joint activities in recent years in areas concerning international trade and, in particular, technical assistance to the Latin American and Caribbean countries participating in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The Permanent Secretariat has collaborated with the UNCTAD secretariat and with ECLAC in the execution of project RLA/87/019, under which joint analyses of the status of negotiations in the Round have continued, in terms of the interests of the countries of the region. In that regard, in April 1992 the organizations finalized and distributed to all member States the document entitled "An analysis of the draft final act of the Uruguay Round".

41. SELA also participated actively in the entire preparatory process for the eighth session of UNCTAD, as well as in the session itself. A ministerial meeting for Latin American coordination prior to the eighth session of UNCTAD was held from 28 August to 4 September 1991 at SELA headquarters, with the support of the UNCTAD secretariat, at which an important position paper was adopted that served as a reference not only for the Group of 77, but also for many other delegations participating in the session at Cartagena.

42. After the session, at the request of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries at Geneva, the SELA secretariat prepared a document containing observations on the proposed terms of reference for the new permanent commissions and working groups of UNCTAD, which proved useful for the delegations participating in the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board, held at Geneva from 21 April to 4 May 1992.

43. UNCTAD has invited SELA to participate in the development of a new programme of technical cooperation on international trade and trade relations for Latin America and the Caribbean (LATINTRADE), which will, henceforth, be the main vehicle for the principal areas of cooperation between UNCTAD and SELA. During its eighth Conference (held at Cartagena, Colombia, in February 1992), UNCTAD organized an inter-agency meeting, in which SELA, ECLAC, UNDP and IDB participated, and at which the first in-depth discussion of the draft LATINTRADE programme took place. It was decided that UNCTAD, ECLAC and SELA would be the co-sponsoring agencies for LATINTRADE, with the support of UNDP.

44. Following a request made subsequent to the joint UNCTAD/SELA/Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) Workshop on technology, trade and development issues in Latin America in the 1990s (Caracas, June 1990), UNCTAD prepared a project document relating to technical assistance in marketing research and development results by strengthening links between the academic research community and the enterprise sector (LATINTEC) and has sent SELA several drafts revised by experts and institutions in the region. The role of SELA would be to coordinate regional activities and, inter alia, to host the regional workshop envisaged in the project document.

45. In the context of continued cooperation with SELA in the area of reconciliation of environment and trade policies, UNCTAD has invited SELA officials to participate in its expert group meetings.

46. UNCTAD would welcome the involvement of SELA in the possible setting up of an interregional trade financing facility to enhance world-wide trade as an instrument of growth and development, a proposal that is presently under discussion.

47. In the context of increased trade liberalization and better convertibility of currency, UNCTAD has held consultations with SELA and other regional organizations to determine the best way to achieve the necessary adaptations of payment and clearing arrangements without distorting normal flows of trade, investment and technology. Emphasis has been placed on the mobilization of domestic and regional resources as well as the greater involvement of enterprises in this endeavour.

48. Within the framework of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD, regional enterprises are kept informed of cross-regional economic relationships, and are thereby encouraged to become more involved in environmentally sound trade and development activities. In this context, training programmes and advisory services are being developed, involving the participation of States members of SELA.

49. The Department of Economic and Social Development has been implementing a substantial programme of technical cooperation activities in the developing countries that are members of SELA.

50. In the science and technology sector, the Department is following closely a regional programme of research and training implemented by the Latin American Commission on Science and Technology (COLCYT) in the area of technological forecasting. SELA and the COLCYT secretariat are expected to participate in the United Nations Seminar on Technology Monitoring, Assessment and Forecasting to be convened by the Department at UNESCO, Paris, from 25 to 29 January 1993. The Department will also make a special effort to ensure the representation of SELA at the first session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the Economic and Social Council to be held in New York from 12 to 23 April 1993. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA and COLCYT will be associated in the follow-up of both international meetings, which are of interest to SELA in connection with its science and technology activities, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 46/12.

51. In the field of research and analysis of development issues and policies, the Department continued to work closely with SELA, exchanging on a regular basis information and analysis regarding various economic issues of global and regional concerns. In particular, it provides SELA with reports on global economic and social trends, issues and policies, such as the World Economic Survey. At the same time, the Department receives SELA studies, position papers and other documents on regional economic and social matters, which are duly taken into account in its activities. In addition, the Department occasionally participates in seminars organized by SELA and ECLAC.

52. In the population sector, the Department carries out research and analysis that is of substantial use to the work of SELA and its member countries. Among the most relevant contributions, every two years the Department produces a monitoring report on World Population Trends and Policies that analyses current population trends and policies of all the countries and regions of the world, including the States members of SELA. Of particular importance also are the periodic reports on population estimates and projections that include information on population size by age and sex (including the number and proportion of children), growth, mortality, fertility and rural and urban distribution. Recently, the Department published its World Population Policies, a three-volume compilation of population policies that provides detailed information on the measures adopted by Governments around the world. Finally, within the series called "Case-Studies in Population Policy", the Department has also published monographs on Brazil, Haiti and Mexico as well as a case-study on Mexico City for the series on mega-cities.

53. In relation to the important challenge facing the region regarding the integration of national economies into the global market-place in general, in particular in the western hemisphere, the Advisory Services and Training Branch of the Department has been providing the region with technical assistance to promote linkages between national economies and markets abroad. This includes formulating and implementing policies and laws affecting foreign investment, foreign trade and transfer of technology in a way that is consistent with both national development goals and international (market-oriented) trends, and establishing linkages between specific companies

in the region (both State-owned and privately held) and transnational corporations in natural resources, agriculture, manufacturing and services. In that regard, the Department welcomes the opportunity to expand its cooperation with the Latin American region through SELA.

54. With regard to the public and financial management sector, the Department would also welcome the opportunity to broaden cooperation with SELA in matters of common concern, particularly in areas relating to the economic and social development of Latin America. This is particularly the case of the Department's close cooperation and collaboration with other regional entities concerned with the economic and social development of the region, and most notably with the Latin American Centre for Development Administration (CLAD), which has been assisting Governments in the region to strengthen their capabilities in this regard, through a variety of innovative programmes.

55. In September 1991, the Department participated in the meeting of the Focal Points of Latin America, held at Caracas in conjunction with the SELA Annual Meeting of Directors of Technical Cooperation of Latin America and the Annual Meeting of the Council of Ministers, which the Department also attended. It was the first time the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat participated in such gatherings. It served to reaffirm its determination to do more in the region in the area of TCDC and to cooperate more closely with SELA.

56. Subsequently, the Department received a request for support for the Information System on TCDC (INFOSELA) data bank, a landmark programme for all countries in the region through which catalogues of national capacities and needs of each member State are produced. Because of the importance and multiplier effect of INFOSELA, the Department is favourably considering supporting the request.

57. SELA and WIPO, together with UNESCO, have continued to cooperate closely in the monitoring and implementation of the recommendations made at the organizational meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies.

58. At the request of SELA, WIPO prepared a study on the importance of the Patent Cooperation Treaty for the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

59. The third meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies was held at SELA headquarters on 20 and 21 July 1992, with the following agenda: (a) general situation and international trends in intellectual property protection (WIPO had been invited to make a contribution on the topic); (b) the Uruguay Round and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights; (c) the interest of the Patent Cooperation Treaty for Latin American and Caribbean countries (the WIPO study on the matter was presented); (d) the possibilities of advancing towards a "Latin American patent system"; and (e) elements for a possible SELA/TCDC programme on industrial property.

60. Under the programme of cooperation between UNIDO and SELA, agreed upon in 1989, the two organizations have consolidated an important advance in inter-agency cooperation, as well as a favourable climate of collaboration and mutual support with regard to industrial and technological development activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

61. This cooperation was evident in the success of the Regional Conference on Industrialization, held at SELA headquarters from 9 to 11 October 1991, whose main results consisted of the establishment of the Permanent Regional Forum on Industrial and Technological Policy and Integration, and the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action on Industrialization. On this basis, the new inter-agency cooperation agreement is directed towards implementing the decisions taken at the Conference.

62. With regard to cooperation between SELA and UNU, the United Nations University Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH) is launching a study on the role of political factors in technology policies, and is commissioning a number of country studies in various Latin American countries members of SELA during the biennium 1992-1993.

63. With regard to GATT, while it does not have formal relations with SELA, most member States of SELA are contracting parties to the Agreement, except three that are in the process of accession and one that is considering accession.

64. In the framework of its technical cooperation activities, aimed at facilitating the more effective participation of developing countries in the work of GATT and in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, the GATT secretariat has, inter alia, been providing data on tariffs, non-tariff measures and trade flows, factual background notes and material for the preparation of requests and offers to member countries of SELA.

65. In 1991, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the GATT secretariat organized six national seminars and technical missions on GATT and/or the Uruguay Round in capitals of SELA member States. A seminar on GATT was organized in February 1992 in Ecuador, a country which is considering accession to GATT.

66. Twenty-four officials from member States of SELA participated in a trade policy course in Spanish organized by the GATT secretariat in the first half of 1992.

67. SELA has continued to provide technical support at Geneva to the Latin American and Caribbean delegations participating in the multilateral trade negotiations of the Uruguay Round, in the framework of GATT, including the preparation of a document containing an evaluation of the draft final act of the negotiations, presented by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee.

68. With respect to IFAD, while it does not cooperate with SELA officially, the Executive Board of IFAD at its thirty-eighth session, held in December 1989, decided to extend an invitation to SELA to attend the Fund's annual Governing Council meetings as an observer. In addition, IFAD is in the process of finalizing a cooperation agreement with SELA that will pave the way for formalized and intensified cooperation. In this context, a draft cooperation agreement was transmitted by IFAD on 3 May 1991 for the consideration of the Permanent Secretary of SELA.

69. FAO has maintained close cooperation with SELA through, inter alia, reciprocal attendance at important meetings, such as the annual meetings of the Latin American Council and SELA-sponsored regional meetings of directors of international technical cooperation and of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities.

70. Consultations regarding complementary activities have taken place between FAO and the Executive Secretary of the SELA Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA). As a result of these consultations, FAO assisted CADESCA in calculating production costs and producer subsidy equivalents for maize, sorghum, rice and beans. A workshop on the calculation of producer subsidy equivalents of basic grains in Central America and Panama, sponsored jointly by FAO and CADESCA, was held at CADESCA headquarters at Panama City from 17 to 28 January 1991. The workshop was aimed at standardizing the methodology to be utilized for the calculations. FAO has prepared a document entitled "Methodological Notes for the Description of Agricultural Support Policies, the Elaboration of Production Costs and the Calculation of Producer Subsidy Equivalents for Selected Agricultural Commodities".

71. On completion of national studies on producer subsidy equivalents, a preliminary regional report for Central America and Panama was submitted for discussion to the Joint FAO/CADESCA Round Table on Basic Grains Producer Subsidy Equivalents and their Implications for Agricultural Policy Harmonization in Central America and Panama, held at Guatemala City from 19 to 21 June 1991. FAO prepared a document entitled "Production Costs and Producer Subsidy Equivalents of Basic Grains in Central America and Panama" for the round table.

72. Another example of cooperation between FAO and CADESCA was the preparation of a study on how basic foodstuffs are marketed in rural areas of Central America and Panama. Six national studies were commissioned by FAO and a regional study on Central America and Panama was commissioned by CADESCA. The regional study served as the basic document for discussion at the round table, sponsored jointly by FAO and CADESCA, on case-studies on how basic foodstuffs are marketed in rural areas of Central America and Panama, held at Panama City from 30 to 31 October 1991. A comprehensive report, including the national reports, will be issued in 1992.

73. FAO/SELA cooperation in the area of food policy and nutrition has also taken place through their collaboration with CADESCA. The Committee provided

logistical support and background material on food security to the workshops on management and analysis of data on food consumption for food and nutrition surveillances, held in Costa Rica in 1991 as part of a FAO regional project.

74. In the framework of the integration of regional and subregional free trade agreements, FAO is currently providing assistance to Central American countries in order to strengthen their food control programmes as a means of contributing to the region's economic development and integration and reducing non-tariff barriers aimed at controlling the cholera epidemic. Similar projects are being implemented in Peru and other Latin American and Caribbean countries. In September 1992, FAO will initiate a project, to be financed by UNDP, to strengthen food standardization and food import/export control in the framework of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR).

75. FAO strongly supports the proposed decision on sanitary and phytosanitary measures under the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations, which will give effect to the use of Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines and recommendations in international food trade. All member countries of SELA, except Paraguay, are members of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The adoption of Codex standards by the countries of the region would support SELA efforts for economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

76. In the area of prevention and control of food contamination, FAO, in cooperation with UNEP, is developing two subregional networks for the monitoring of food contaminants, especially pesticide residues, in Central and South America. Centres located in Guatemala and Brazil have been strengthened to act as subregional clearing-houses for the monitoring of these contaminants. This activity is being carried out within the framework of the joint FAO/UNEP/WHO food contamination and assessment programme and would contribute to the environmental management activities of SELA.

77. FAO and SELA are planning to cooperate in the establishment of a fertilizer information network for Latin America and the Caribbean that could be patterned on a successful FAO-sponsored regional network in Asia.

78. With respect to the World Bank and IMF, SELA has participated in the regular semi-annual meetings of the Group of Twenty-four, the Development Committee and the Interim Committee.

79. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA was represented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

## III. CONCLUSION

80. As evidenced by the information contained in the present report, the meeting between the SELA secretariat and the United Nations Secretariat that resulted in the signing of a reciprocal cooperation agreement has had the effect of strengthening collaboration between the two entities.

81. The agreement has spurred new cooperation activities, which have included some United Nations bodies that had not previously cooperated with SELA.

82. As indicated in the present report, an essential aspect of the work is being carried out through cooperation between ECLAC and SELA. These two organizations share various areas of endeavour, their activities are regional in scope and they carry out complementary tasks.

83. Notwithstanding, it is important to stress that the cooperation of SELA with United Nations programmes, organizations and agencies is becoming increasingly broad and diversified and, in many areas, is operating through inter-agency cooperation, which is helping to optimize existing resources for the benefit of the countries of the region.

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